

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SEOUL 04355 240339Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 ICAE-00 HEW-04 DODE-00 AGRE-00
EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 /063 W
-----095497 241334Z /43
R 240300Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1253

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 4355

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SPOP, EAID
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH PRESSING GLOBAL PROBLEMS-
POPULATION GROWTH AND ADEQUATE FOOD PRODUCTION

REF: STATE 107370

SUMMARY: BECAUSE KOREA HAS PURSUED HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL
POPULATION AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES, THE EMBASSY CONCLUDES
IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO MAKE A SPECIAL PITCH ON
POLICIES IN THESE AREAS BUT RATHER TO CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE
THE ROKG IN ITS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL POLICY SELECTION AND
IMPLEMENTATION. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS, KOREA HAS BECOME A WORLD
LEADER IN THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL POLICIES
ADDRESSING THE NEED TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH POPULATION/FOOD
PROBLEMS.

2. IN 1961, FAMILY PLANNING BECAME AN EXPLICIT OBJECTIVE
IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND IN THAT YEAR
THE SUPREME COUNCIL ON NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION (SNCR)
DECIDED TO ADOPT FAMILY PLANNING AS A NATIONAL POLICY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SEOUL 04355 240339Z

3. FP PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION BEGAN IN 1962 WITH A GOAL OF
REDUCING THE POPULATION GROWTH RATE FROM 2.9 TO 2.5 PERCENT
DURING THE FIRST FIVE-YEAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN PERIOD
(1961-1966) AND TO FURTHER REDUCE THE GROWTH RATE TO 2.0
PERCENT BY THE END OF THE SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1967-1971).
SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS EFFORT, THE ROKG MINISTRY OF
HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (MHSA) HAS ASSIGNED FP FIELD

WORKERS TO EACH MYON (VILLAGE) OFFICE; A PLANNED PARENT-HOOD FEDERATION OF KOREA (PPFK) HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO UNDERTAKE INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION (IE&C) ACTIVITIES, TRAINING PROGRAMS IN COOPERATION WITH THE MHSA, AND TO ORGANIZE MOTHERS' CLUBS IN VILLAGES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO SUPPORT THE FP PROGRAM; A KOREAN INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY PLANNING WAS ORGANIZED IN 1971 TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVALUATION, RESEARCH AND TRAINING; AND A FULL RANGE OF CONTRACEPTIVE SERVICES HAS BEEN PROVIDED AT HOSPITAL AND CLINIC FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. IN ADDITION, THE ROKG ESTABLISHED (IN 1974) THE CENTRAL OFFICE FOR POPULATION EDUCATION (COPE) IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE POPULATION EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS AND (IN 1976) A POPULATION POLICY DELIBERATION COMMITTEE, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN DEVELOPING AN ONGOING NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY. IN FORMULATING THE FOURTH FIVE-YEAR ECONOMIC PLAN (1977-81), THE ROKG SIGNIFICANTLY EXPANDED ITS EFFORTS TO MAKE FP SERVICES, INCLUDING VOLUNTARY STERILIZATION, AVAILABLE TO A WIDER RANGE OF TARGET POPULATIONS. THIS EFFORT PROVED SO SUCCESSFUL AS TO REQUIRE A MID-CY 1977 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ALLOCATION AMOUNTING TO THE EQUIVALENT OF US DOLS 3.7 MILLION TO FUND INCREASING DEMANDS FOR VOLUNTARY STERILIZATION SERVICES. TOTAL ROKG BUDGETARY SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM, INCLUDING THIS SUPPLEMENT, AMOUNTED TO MORE THAN US DOLS ELEVEN MILLION FOR CY 1977.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SEOUL 04355 240339Z

THE CURRENT ROKG GOAL IS TO FURTHER REDUCE THE POPULATION GROWTH RATE TO 1.5 PERCENT BY END OF CY 78. THE INITIAL CY 78 FAMILY PLANNING BUDGET, APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN DECEMBER 1977, IS US DOLS 12,989,348. HOWEVER, THE MHSA IS ANTICIPATING AN OVER-TARGET INCREASE OF AN ADDITIONAL 100,000 FEMALE STERILIZATIONS IN 1978 WHICH WILL REQUIRE A SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING OF ABOUT US DOLS THREE MILLION. THUS, THE TOTAL FAMILY PLANNING BUDGET FOR 1978 WILL BE CLOSE TO US DOLS SIXTEEN MILLION.

4. FOOD SUPPLY: KOREA, WITH ITS HIGH POPULATION DENSITY, IS FULLY AWARE OF THE NEED TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND CONSIDERS AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH A TOP PRIORITY. A KOREA AGRICULTURAL SECTOR MODEL WAS DEVELOPED UNDER AID AUSPICES TO ASSIST NATIONAL-LEVEL PUBLIC DECISION MAKERS IN THE FORMULATION AND ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL POLICIES. THE PRIMARY EMPHASIS HAS BEEN ON INCREASING RICE OUTPUT. WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW TONGIL RICE VARIETY, KOREA BECAME SELF-SUFFICIENT IN RICE PRODUCTION STARTING IN 1975 AND ACHIEVED THE HIGHEST YIELDS IN THE WORLD IN 1977. THE ROKG IS NOW TURNING ITS ATTENTION TO OTHER CROPS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT ON-GOING RESEARCH WILL LEAD IN THE 1980'S

TO AN IMPROVEMENT IN WHEAT AND BARLEY, AS WELL AS CORN, POTATO AND SOYBEAN PRODUCTION. DOUBLE CROPPING PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED, LAND IS BEING RECLAIMED AND PUT UNDER CULTIVATION, AND LIVESTOCK BREEDING IS UNDERWAY. KOREA HAS ALSO INCREASED THE CAPACITY OF ITS FISHING FLEET.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ONE OF THE MAJOR ROKG PROGRAMS IS THE SUCCESSFUL SELF-HELP SAEMAUL MOVEMENT INITIATED IN 1971 TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION AND FARM INCOME. ALTHOUGH THE ROKG STRESSED INDUSTRIAL OVER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN EARLY PHASES OF ITS ECONOMIC EXPANSION, AN INCREASE IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND FARM INCOME IS NOW FULLY RECOGNIZED AS A NATIONAL NECESSITY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE ROKG REALIZES THAT, ALTHOUGH AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT HAS INCREASED, TOTAL FOOD CONSUMPTION HAS GROWN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 SEOUL 04355 240339Z

EVEN MORE, REFLECTING HIGHER INCOMES FROM THE NON-AGRICULTURAL SECTORS. THIS DEVELOPMENT ACCORDS WITH THE FACT OF LIMITED LAND, AND THE GOAL OF IMPROVED LIVING STANDARDS FOR A POPULATION WHOSE GROWTH HAS ALSO BEEN SHARPLY REDUCED, BUT HAD ALREADY REACHED A LEVEL WHERE KOREA COULD NOT HOPE TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD AND STILL HAVE LIVING STANDARDS MUCH ABOVE THE POVERTY LEVEL.

5. IN CONCLUSION, WE BELIEVE THE ROKG HAS DONE ALL THE RIGHT THINGS. ITS POLICIES IN FOOD AND POPULATION HAVE ALL BEEN DIRECTED AT THE APPROPRIATE OBJECTIVES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION HAS BEEN HIGHLY EFFECTIVE, AS SHOWN BY THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS. WE HAVE CONTINUED TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS WITH ROKG OFFICIALS ON A CONTINUING BASIS AND TO ENCOURAGE THEIR EFFORTS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE DO NOT THINK A NEW APPROACH WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD NOR WOULD IT PRODUCE ANY MORE EFFECTIVE POLICIES OR ACHIEVEMENTS.
SNEIDER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRODUCTION, AMBASSADORS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), FOODS, POPULATION GROWTH RATE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL04355
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780218-1131
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780523/aaaaatlo.tel
Line Count: 154
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d94fc397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 107370
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2585720
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH PRESSING GLOBAL PROBLEMS- POPULATION GROWTH AND ADEQUATE FOOD PRODUCTION
TAGS: SPOP, EAID, PDIP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d94fc397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014